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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 4 May 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letter dated 3 May 2016 concerning the rocket attack by terrorist groups against Dubayt Hospital in the city of Aleppo (S/2016/410), I should like to inform you of the indiscriminate terrorist attacks that have been launched by armed terrorist groups against peaceable residential neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo for these last two weeks.

The terrorist groups attacking Aleppo are carrying out the threats made by the "Riyadh opposition" delegation, which withdrew from the Geneva negotiations, to burn the cities of Syria, having failed to convince Syrians that it is genuinely committed to the future of the country, because it only understands the language of fire, blood, killing, carnage, plunder and theft. This is the very same group that certain parties like to call the "moderate opposition".

It is no longer possible to ignore or remain silent about the terrorist groups that serve as proxies for Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. They include Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Conquest, the Islamic Front, Liwa' al-Tawhid, the Emigrants Brigade, Northern Shield, the Army of Islam, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki battalion, Ahrar al-Sham, the Islamic Turkmen Front and other terrorist groups. Those groups are deliberately and indiscriminately showering peaceable civilian neighbourhoods of the city of Aleppo with thousands of projectiles, including light and heavy calibre missiles, explosive shells, gas cylinder missiles (also known as "hell cannons") and mortar shells. Within the last 10 days, those attacks have killed more than 118 people, and caused injuries of varying severity to more than 206 others, including women, children and the elderly.

The so-called moderate opposition is committing various crimes that include murder, the systematic destruction of homes, property and infrastructure, and vandalism of steadfast Aleppo's heritage and civilization — all in plain view of the international community. The purpose of those crimes is to punish the people of Aleppo, who have been steadfast in the face of terrorism. The murder and destruction have been greeted with deafening silence by the international community, which has turned a blind eye to the attacks that the terrorist groups have committed with the backing of the Turkish, Saudi Arabian and Qatari regimes. Those regimes support terrorism by providing money, weapons, materiel and manpower, as well as logistical and intelligence support. Meanwhile, well-known

media networks continue to promote terrorism, falsify facts and glorify terrorist crimes.

The following is a partial list of crimes and attacks committed by the armed terrorist groups that some are fond of calling "the moderate armed opposition". If these are the crimes committed by the moderate opposition, one shudders to think what things would be like if the opposition were not moderate!

- On Wednesday, 27 April 2016, eight people, including a woman, were killed and 51 civilians sustained injuries of varying severity.
- On Tuesday, 26 April, two people, including a woman, were killed and 17 civilians, including eight women and a child, sustained various injuries.
- On Monday, 25 April, nine people were killed and 103 civilians, including a child, sustained injuries of varying severity.
- On Sunday, 24 April, four people, including a woman and a child, were killed and 23 civilians, including four women and 11 children, sustained injuries of varying severity.
- On Saturday, 23 April, three people, including two women, were killed and 37 civilians, including 12 women and four children, sustained injuries of varying severity.
- On Friday, 22 April, 12 people, including four children, sustained injuries of varying severity.
- On Thursday, 21 April, one civilian was injured.
- On Wednesday, 20 April, five civilians, including a woman, sustained various injuries.

Annexed to the present letter are lists of some of the terrorist attacks perpetrated against Aleppo by terrorist groups, including the resulting human and material losses (see annex).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that the armed terrorist groups that certain parties insist on calling the "moderate armed opposition" are only able to continue their crimes and attacks against civilians because of substantial direct and indirect foreign support from certain regimes and States, and because the direct intervention in the field on behalf of those groups by the armed forces of the Turkish regime, which supplies its proxies on the ground with weapons, ammunition, fire support and safe havens, is being ignored. The attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have intensified at the orders of the terrorism-sponsoring regimes and States in a premeditated attempt to scuttle the agreement on the cessation of combat operations and kill the Geneva negotiations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to condemn these barefaced criminal attacks against civilians. The Security Council must press the regimes and States that support and sponsor terrorism to order their proxies to desist from the systematic destruction of Aleppo and the murder of its civilian inhabitants, and take preventive and punitive measures against the regimes and States that support and finance terrorism in implementation of the relevant Security Council

resolutions on countering terrorism and the financing of terrorism, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that it abides by the resolutions of the Security Council concerning the cessation of combat operations, but it will continue to pursue its struggle against terrorist organizations and groups in defence of security and stability in Syria, the region and the world.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 May 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Terrorist attacks and acts of aggression and sniper attacks perpetrated against Aleppo and its peaceful inhabitants during the period from 20 to 28 April 2016 and the resulting casualties

27 April

- A civilian was admitted to the Syrian Specialist Hospital after being shot in the Halab al-Jadidah area
- Two civilians were admitted to Razi Hospital in Aleppo after being hit by sniper fire in the Maysalun area
- A gas cylinder missile struck Qasam Street in Maydan, causing in material damage
- A civilian woman who died from injuries from sniper fire was brought to Aleppo University Hospital
- A civilian was admitted to Aleppo University Hospital after being shot in the left foot in the Hamdaniyah area
- A shell struck the Nayrab area, injuring three civilians
- A locally made rocket struck the A'zamiyah area next to the Bilal Mosque, killing three civilians and causing injuries of varying severity to 26 others
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Bab al-Faraj area, Manshiyah, injuring a civilian, who received medical treatment
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Aziziyah area, injuring a civilian, who received the necessary medical treatment
- A gas cylinder missile fell on the Muhafazah area, next to the Russian Consulate, injuring a civilian, who received the necessary medical treatment
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Halab al-Jadidah area next to the Sa'ad bin al-Rabi' Mosque, injuring a civilian, who received medical treatment
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Jamiliyah area, killing four civilians and causing various injuries to 13 others
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Sulayman al-Halabi area, injuring a civilian, who received medical treatment

26 April

- Four civilians, including a woman and a child, were taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by sniper fire in the University Square area
- Four gas cylinder missiles struck the Suryan area, opposite the Ibn Rushd Hospital, causing material damage

- A gas cylinder missile struck the Nile Street area, causing various injuries to six civilians, including three women; the victims received medical treatment
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Jam'iyat al-Zahra' area, killing a man and a woman and causing various injuries to six civilians, including four women
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Ashrafiyah area, injuring a civilian
- Armed terrorist groups heavily shelled the residential neighbourhoods of Salah al-Din, A'zamiyah, Dahiyat al-Assad, Ashrafiyah and Jam'iyat al-Zahra', killing a number of civilians and causing various injuries to others

25 April

- A gas cylinder missile struck the Mogambo roundabout, injuring civilians
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Jamiliyah area next to the Sadiq Mosque, injuring civilians
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Ansari area, injuring a civilian
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Bustan Kulayb area, causing a child to suffer various injuries and bruising
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Jam'iyat al-Zahra' area, injuring a civilian
- A large number of shells and locally made rockets struck the town of Zahra' in the countryside north of Aleppo, killing one civilian and causing various injuries to 10 others
- Four locally made rockets struck Aleppo International Airport, causing material damage
- Three gas cylinder missiles struck the area of the radio station, killing a civilian and causing various injuries to 30 others
- Four gas cylinder missiles struck the Sulaymaniyah area, killing a number of civilians and causing injuries of varying severity to ten others
- A gas cylinder missile fell on the Jamiliyah area, next to the post office, killing a number of civilians
- A gas cylinder missile struck Barun Street in the Bab al-Faraj area, causing various injuries to five civilians
- A mortar shell struck the Maydan area, injuring a civilian
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Sulaymaniyah area, killing a number of civilians and causing various injuries to others
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Martini area, killing a civilian and causing various injuries to nine others
- A gas cylinder missile struck the area of the radio station, causing various injuries to 14 civilians
- A gas cylinder missile struck the area of Nile Street, causing various injuries to three civilians

- A gas cylinder missile struck the Hamdaniyah area, causing various injuries to civilians
- A gas cylinder missile fell on the Shahba' al-Jadidah area, next to Ulama' al-Sughur School, causing various injuries to five civilians
- A mortar shell struck the Jamiliyah area, causing injuries of varying severity to four civilians
- A mortar shell struck the Khalidiyah area, causing various injuries to civilians

24 April

- A gas cylinder missile struck the Minyan area, killing a little girl and injuring another
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Hamdaniyah area, causing various injuries to three children
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Jam'iyat al-Zahra' area, causing various injuries to civilians
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Halab al-Jadidah area, killing one civilian and injuring another
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Abu Firas al-Hamdani roundabout in the Halab al-Jadidah area, causing various injuries to a civilian
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Nile Street area, causing injuries of varying severity to five civilians, including three women and one child
- A gas cylinder missile struck Nile Street, killing a civilian woman and causing serious injuries to another
- Eight gas cylinder missiles fell on the Maydan and Sulayman al-Halabi neighbourhoods, next to Rotana Hall and Hajjar Mosque, killing one civilian and causing various injuries to seven others, including five children
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Suryan al-Jadidah area, injuring a little girl

23 April

- Six civilians, including five women, were taken to Razi Hospital and Aleppo University Hospital after sustaining injuries of varying severity when two mortar shells exploded next to them in the Mogambo and Nile Street neighbourhoods
- A civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after a gas cylinder missile struck the Mushariqah neighbourhood
- Three gas cylinder missiles struck the Ashrafiyah area, killing two women, and causing various injuries to 10 other civilians, including two children and three women
- A man and woman were taken to Razi Hospital in Aleppo after sustaining injuries when two gas cylinder missiles exploded near them in the Khalidiyah neighbourhood

- A civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by sniper fire in the Jam'iyat al-Zahra' neighbourhood
- A civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by shrapnel when a gas cylinder missile struck the Khalidiyah neighbourhood
- A female civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after a gas cylinder missile struck her house in the Khalidiyah neighbourhood
- A civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by shrapnel when a gas cylinder missile struck his house in the Masakin al-Sabil neighbourhood
- Nine civilians, including a child and a woman, were taken to Aleppo University Hospital and Al-Razi Hospital when two gas cylinder missiles struck the Ashrafiyah neighbourhood
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Ashrafiyah neighbourhood, killing one civilian and injuring another
- Several falling bullets struck the Mogambo area, injuring a civilian
- Several falling bullets struck the Hamdaniyah neighbourhood, injuring a woman and a child
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Sabil neighbourhood, injuring a civilian

22 April

- Two civilians were taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by sniper fire in the Hamdaniyah area
- A civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being injured by a falling explosive shell in Nile Street
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Salah al-Din neighbourhood, causing various injuries to eight civilians, including four children
- A gas cylinder missile struck the Aziziyah area, next to the cultural centre, injuring a civilian

21 April

- A citizen was taken to Aleppo University hospital after being hit by sniper fire in the right foot in the Sayf al-Dawlah area

20 April

- Four gas cylinder missiles struck various places in the Fayd neighbourhood, causing material damage
- A civilian was taken to University Hospital after being struck by sniper fire in the Salah al-Din area
- Three civilians, including a woman, were taken to Razi Hospital and Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by sniper fire in the Bustan al-Zahrah, Idha'ah and Kuwayris neighbourhoods
- A civilian was taken to Aleppo University Hospital after being hit by sniper fire in the Jam'iyat al-Zahra' neighbourhood

Table of projectiles fired at peaceable civilian neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo on 1 May 2016

Time	*Location*	*Nature of violation*	*Number*	*Resulting damages and losses*
1010	Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhood	Sniper fire	1	1 injured
1715	Bustan al-Zahra' neighbourhood	Sniper fire	1	1 injured
1830	Shahba — ring road	23 mm calibre artillery	3	5 injured
1830	Ansari — Diyafah Palace	23 mm calibre artillery	1	4 injured
1835	Sayf al-Dawlah	14.5 mm calibre machine gun	1	1 soldier killed
1850	Sulaymaniyah	Mortar	1	4 injured
1900	Sayyid Ali area	Mortar	1	–
	George Lahdu	Mortar	1	3 killed and 10 injured
	Maysalun Bridge	Mortar	1	–
1910	Nile Street	Mortar	1	1 injured
1920	Maydan neighbourhood	Mortar	6	Material damage
1920	Aziziyah	Gas cylinders	2	–
1935	Nazlat Adun's	Shells	3	4 injured
1935	Near the university	23 mm calibre artillery	2	3 injured
2000	Maysalun	Mortar	1	17 injured
2000	Bab al-Faraj	Mortar	1	1 injured
2000	Maydan	Mortar	2	6 injured
2000	Hamdaniyah	Mortar	1	1 injured

Table of projectiles fired at peaceable civilian neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo on 30 April 2016

Time	*Location*	*Nature of violation*	*Number*	*Resulting damages and losses*
1140	"Roundabout of death" at the entrance to Aleppo	Rockets	1	1 injured and material damage
1330	Nile Street	Mortar	1	Material damage
1700	Hamdaniyah neighbourhood, district 4	Gas cylinders	1	2 killed and material damage
1215	Mushariqah neighbourhood	Mortar	1	Material damage
1505	Sayf al-Dawlah	Mortar	4	Material damage
1505	Hamdaniyah	Gas cylinders	1	Material damage
1600	Hamdaniyah	Gas cylinders	1	Material damage
1600	Sa'dullah al-Jabiri Square	Gas cylinders	1	Material damage
1600	Hamdaniyah	Mortar	1	Material damage
1630	Hamdaniyah	Mortar	2	1 injured
1025	Khalidiyah	Mortar	1	Material damage
1030	Jam'iyat al-Zahra'	Mortar	3	1 killed, material damage
1750	Sulaymaniyah	Gas cylinders	1	Material damage
1915	Arqub — Jabal al-Ghazalat	Mortar	Several projectiles	4 injured and material damage
1915	Hamdaniyah, district 3	Gas cylinders	1	1 killed and material damage
1915	Kallasah, Suyufi neighbourhood	Gas cylinders	1	Material damage
1920	Ramusah, Artillery College	Highly destructive rocket	1	Material damage

Table of projectiles fired at peaceable civilian neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo on 29 April 2016

Time	*Location*	*Nature of violation*	*Number*	*Resulting damages and losses*
1030	Khalidiyah cosmetics market	Mortar	1	Material damage
1040	Khalidiyah — gas plant area	Mortar	3	Material damage
1100	Khalidiyah — local market	Mortar	2	Material damage
1135	Halab al-Jadidah — Basil roundabout	Mortar	2	4 injured
1215	Maydan neighbourhood	Shells	5	Home burned
1310	City Hall area	Gas cylinders	3	Material damage
1320	Bustan Kulayb	Gas cylinders	1	14 injured
1330	Security Committee headquarters area	Gas cylinders	1	Material damage
1335	City Hall area	Gas cylinders	1	6 killed and 10 injured
1345	Maydan neighbourhood	Gas cylinders	1	1 killed and 7 injured
1400	Police headquarters area	Mortar	1	1 injured and car burned
1410	Bustan al-Qasr — vegetable market	Gas cylinders	2	6 killed and 5 injured
1420	Turkish Consulate area	Mortar	4	3 consulate guards injured and material damage
1500	Jamiliyah — City Hall	Mortar	2	1 injury and material damage
1520	Nile Street	Mortar	6	Home burned
1730	Sayf al-Dawlah — Idha'ah neighbourhood	Various	30	2 killed and 10 injured
1730	Fatimah Mosque — Zahra' neighbourhood	Various	5	6 injured and material damage
1735	Assad suburb	Mortar	2	2 injured
1735	Jamiliyah — next to the Baz petrol station	Mortar	1	1 killed and 2 injured
1750	Suryan	23 mm calibre artillery	1	2 injured

Time	*Location*	*Nature of violation*	*Number*	*Resulting damages and losses*
1850	Assad suburb	Sniper fire	–	3 injured
1830	Bustan Zahra'	Mortar	1	1 injured
1830	Maysalun	Mortar	1	1 injured
1835	Maysalun — next to the bridge	Mortar	1	Material damage
1840	Shaykh Maqsud	Mortar	1	2 injured
1845	Fayd	Gas cylinders	1	4 injured
1910	Sulaymaniyah — main road	Mortar	1	1 injured
1915	Sulaymaniyah — Cocktail Street	23 mm calibre artillery	3	3 injured

Table of projectiles fired at peaceable civilian neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo on 28 April 2016

Time	*Location*	*Nature of violation*	*Number*	*Resulting damages and losses*
0130	Meridien neighbourhood	Gas cylinders	8	2 killed and 4 injured
0915	Ashrafiyah	Gas cylinders	1	2 injured
0930	Ashrafiyah	Shell	2	4 injured
1000	The tourist hotel in Sa'dullah al-Jabiri square	Shell	1	5 injured
1015	Basil complex — Manshiyah al-Jadidah	Shell	1	1 injured
1015	Bab al-Faraj — Administrative Affairs Centre garage	Shell	1	Material damage
1100	Aziziyah area	Gas cylinders	1	6 injured
1100	Aziziyah neighbourhood	Gas cylinders	1	1 injured
1120	Maydan neighbourhood	Gas cylinders	1	9 killed and 23 injured
1230	Maydan, residential building	Rocket	1	8 killed
1450	Muhafazah area	Gas cylinders	1	2 injured
1505	Jamiliyah area	Gas cylinders	1	2 injured
1545	Jamiliyah area	Gas cylinders	3	2 killed and 20 injured
1545	Manshiyah al-Qadimah area	Mortar	1	2 killed
1630	Muhafazah area	Mortar	2	3 injured
1630	Sa'dullah al-Jabiri Square	Gas cylinders	1	1 injured
1645	Sa'dullah al-Jabiri Square	Gas cylinders	1	2 injured
1645	Jamiliyah	Gas cylinders	1	4 killed and 8 injured
1650	Muhafazah area	Mortar	1	3 injured
1745	Tal'at Meridien	Gas cylinders	1	1 killed
1745	Sa'dullah al-Jabiri Square	Gas cylinders	1	1 soldier injured
1810	Aziziyah area	Mortar	1	2 injured and material damage
1900	Maysalun roundabout	Gas cylinders	1	4 injured

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4 May 2016

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Letter dated 4 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a concept note for the Security Council open debate on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", to be held on Wednesday, 11 May 2016 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amr **Aboulatta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-07332 (E) 060516

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Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme

"Countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorism", to be held on 11 May 2016

Background

1. Over the past few years, the importance of countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups has been gaining prominence and driven to the forefront of combating terrorism efforts worldwide. The rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), its expansion and its continued success in inspiring people from across the globe to leave their homes and join its ranks demonstrate the imperativeness of confronting the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups, with a special focus on ISIL (Da'esh).

2. The ideologies of religiously inspired terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, ISIL (Da'esh), the Nusrah Front and Al-Shabaab are the beliefs, values, principles and objectives that distinguish the identity and aims of those groups. The ideologies of those groups are very similar. They emanate and derive from the same extremist, *takfiri* and violent concepts and views that were propagated in the mid-twentieth century by some scholars who diverted the true and proper interpretation of religion to achieve political objectives. All those terrorist groups share the same ultimate goal of restoring, through violent means, the "caliphate" and establishing an Islamic State. The ideology underlying those groups also rejects the very concept of the nation State and seeks to remould national boundaries and to reshape national identities to conform to their pan-Islamic world view.

3. The ideologies of terrorist groups provide them with the intellectual foundation. This is mainly because the ideology of a terrorist group gives definition to the "enemies" by providing criteria to assess the "pious" or "the sinful" among persons and institutions. This gives rise to the concept of "legitimate targets". In this context, it is within the ideology of ISIL (Da'esh), for instance, that killing unbelievers in Islam is mandatory for every Muslim.

4. In the same vein, terrorist groups use their narratives and ideologies to justify their acts of violence, and to provide — based on erroneous and distorted interpretations — the religious and moral framework and pretext for their terrorist acts, both to the outside world and to themselves. This happens by shifting the onus of responsibility onto either their targets or other actors, whom, in ideological terms, terrorist groups hold responsible for the state of affairs which justify a violent response to rectify. By the assertion that it has established a religiously and political legitimate caliphate, ISIL (Da'esh) gave itself and its members the necessary justification for their terrorist acts by invoking misinterpretation of and distortion to the primary sources of the Islamic faith, the Koran and the Sunna. They believe that they are fighting for the protection and promotion of Islam and that they are purifying the world from the infidels.

5. Moreover, terrorist groups use their narratives and ideologies to recruit supporters and fighters. ISIL (Da'esh) is an example. It has managed to recruit tens of thousands of foreign terrorist fighters so far. A major reason for this advanced level of

successful recruitment of misled youth, men and women has been the group's ability to propagate its ideology, the use of propaganda and the mastery of the social media. The group manages to portray foreign terrorist fighters' lives within ISIL (Da'esh) camps and territories under its occupation as ones characterized by camaraderie, good morale and purposeful activity. The group insists that its members enjoy a sense of understated heroism and are elements of giving martyrdom for a sumptuous afterlife, a narrative designed in essence in order to attract family and friends. Moreover, this propaganda exploits perceptions of economic and political disenfranchisement among young Muslim women and men, especially in Europe.

6. Furthermore, terrorist groups use their narratives and ideologies for propaganda to project an image of strength and momentum and to illustrate that they exist strongly and influentially on the international scene. In addition, they use these narratives and ideologies to mobilize resources and garner support from sympathizers.

7. ISIL (Da'esh) has brought the usage of the narratives and ideologies by the terrorist groups to an unprecedented domain, by exploiting the media, social media and other online communications platforms, to target its audiences in around 100 countries, in nearly two dozen languages, with up to 90,000 tweets every day, and through themes allegedly related to Islam.

8. On the other hand, and while there is no shortage of interest to counter the narratives and ideologies of the terrorist groups, and ISIL (Da'esh) in particular, the international community has not yet been successful and continues to lag behind in this regard. This is mainly due to the absence of a real strategic vision and a comprehensive rather than an ad hoc and piecemeal approach, the lack of international actors' full comprehension of the ideology and the content of terrorist narratives, the ineffectiveness and the limitation in scope and funding of the current relevant efforts, and the lack of cooperation on the bilateral, regional and international levels. Furthermore, there is a lack of coordination and coherence among the efforts being undertaken to combat terrorist narratives and ideologies, and the non-existence of the necessary follow-up mechanism.

9. Thus, there is a need for a "comprehensive international strategy" to counter existing terrorist narratives and ideologies, as well as an appropriate mechanism to coordinate, follow up and mobilize the necessary action and resources.

Objectives

10. Therefore, the purpose of the debate is to listen to the various views and comments regarding two main points: first, the possible objectives and elements of a successful comprehensive international strategy for countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups, with a special emphasis on ISIL (Da'esh); and second, the ideal mechanism to coordinate, follow up and mobilize the necessary action and resources.

11. The discussions should focus on the following:

(a) What would be a practical way to coordinate between the efforts of the United Nations and other forums (on the regional or the international levels) for countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups, and especially ISIL (Da'esh)?

(b) What are the efforts being undertaken to counter and refute the narratives and the ideologies of the terrorist groups and to rectify the falsehood propagated by

them? What are the additional measures required to accomplish this? What role can the religious institutions play?

(c) What measures could be taken by the international community, in accordance with the rule of law and while ensuring freedom of speech, to counter terrorists' use of media, social media and other online communications platforms, including the Internet, for the dissemination of their narratives and ideologies?

(d) How can the international community develop and implement an effective messaging strategy, including ways to expose the evil perpetrated by ISIL (Da'esh)?

(e) What means are necessary to raise public awareness among the vulnerable, in particular youth, to steer them away from joining terrorist groups?

(f) What measures should be taken to enhance the cooperation and coordination between security and intelligence authorities of different countries, especially through the sharing of information and good practices, to counter the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups?

(g) How can the necessary resources to fund efforts and strategies aimed at countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups be enhanced?

(h) What legal measures should be implemented to counter the narratives and ideologies of the terrorist groups?

(i) Who are the stakeholders who should be engaged in the implementation of the strategy? Governments, civil society, including the religious leaders (Islamic/non-Islamic), the private sector and companies? What could each of these stakeholders contribute?

(j) What would be the scope, nature and mandate of a practical mechanism, within the United Nations, for follow-up on the implementation of a possible comprehensive international strategy?

Briefers

The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson

The Secretary-General of Al Azhar Islamic Research Academy, Mohi El Din Afifi

The Vice-President and Deputy General Counsel of Microsoft, Steven A. Crown

Expected outcome

12. A presidential statement is envisaged, based on the views and comments presented during the debate and on agreement among members of the Security Council. The statement could request the Counter-Terrorism Committee to present, in close consultations with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, as well as interested Member States, to propose to the Council, by April 2017, a "comprehensive international strategy" on countering narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups, with special emphasis on ISIL (Da'esh). This proposal should also include options for a mechanism that would be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the strategy and the mobilization of the necessary resources.

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Security Council

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5 May 2016

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Letter dated 3 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit an outline of the position of the Republic of Belarus with regard to some claims made during the discussion by the Security Council on 28 April 2016 of the situation in Ukraine.

I kindly request your assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

16-07381 (E) 060516 060516

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Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

The position of the Republic of Belarus regarding settlement of the Ukrainian conflict has always been based on creating an enabling environment for all participants in the negotiating process.

Minsk, which is fully contributing to the work of the Trilateral Contact Group and its working subgroups, is providing the necessary conditions for the unimpeded entry and safety of the participants.

In that context, Belarus considers it unacceptable for Ukrainian politicians, including at the United Nations, to circulate statements and comments alleging that Ms. Iryna Gerashchenko, First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, encountered difficulties entering the Republic of Belarus on 26-27 April 2016.

Belarus emphasizes that this information is untrue. Ms. Gerashchenko is free to enter the Republic of Belarus without restrictions.

We believe it is counterproductive for Ukraine to intentionally create a conflict situation and to knowingly spread inaccurate reports that Ms. Gerashchenko had difficulties entering the Republic of Belarus. Such actions have a negative impact on the negotiating process to resolve the Ukrainian crisis.

The Republic of Belarus reiterates its willingness to provide the necessary assistance for the negotiations to be conducted in Minsk and calls on all participants in the negotiating process to cooperate constructively and respectfully on the emerging issues.

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Identical letters dated 5 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters regarding the support provided by the Jordanian regime to armed terrorist groups active in Syrian territory, we should like to inform you that, on 19 April 2016, the Jordanian authorities helped 150 terrorists equipped with some 30 four-wheel drive vehicles enter Syria from Jordanian territory through several border crossings and reach the city of Busra al-Sham, Dar'a governorate. Those terrorists had been trained in combat methods and the use of modern weapons at a training camp in Jordan.

The conduct of the Jordanian regime, including its abuse of border crossings that are meant to be used for humanitarian purposes, and the direct support that it provides to terrorist groups in Syria is a blatant violation of the most basic foundations and principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations resolutions on friendly and good-neighbourly relations between Member States. The Jordanian regime's conduct is also in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), all of which reaffirm that States Members must not provide any support or assistance to terrorist groups or the members thereof.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities and compel the Jordanian regime to desist from its practices, which are contrary to international law and Security Council resolutions, and threaten security and stability in the region and throughout the world.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Identical letters dated 5 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to transmit to you herewith information about violations by armed terrorist groups of the Aleppo truce agreement and terrorist attacks against peaceable residential neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo and the city of Mukharram in Homs governorate.

After exhaustive efforts culminating in arrangements for a truce in the city of Aleppo, and after the Syrian Arab Army carried out its commitments thereunder, armed terrorist groups deliberately violated those arrangements in the morning of Thursday, 5 May 2016, just a few short hours after the truce went into effect, by raining down an intensive hail of rocket shells, gas cylinder missiles (also known as "hell cannons") and mortar shells on the peaceable residential Aleppo neighbourhoods of Khalidiyah, Jam'iyat al-Zahra', Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, Aziziyah and Maydan. Terrorist attacks on those residential neighbourhoods and on the Dar al-Farah school killed three civilians and caused injuries of varying severity to several others, most of them children, women and elderly persons. The terrorist attacks also caused extensive destruction of private and public property and infrastructure. That criminal violation of the Aleppo truce reveals unmistakably the true face of the armed terrorist groups, who wish nothing but blood and fire for Aleppo. Those terrorist groups, which are supported by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other States known for their unrestrained support for terrorists, care for nothing except killing Syrians and destroying their country. Even so, there are still some who persist in calling those terrorist groups "the moderate opposition".

In the morning of Thursday, 5 May 2016, the terrorist Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) organization detonated a car bomb and a motorcycle bomb in the main square of the city of Upper Mukharram in Homs governorate, killing 12 civilians and causing injuries of varying severity to 40 others, including children, women and elderly persons.

Those terrorist attacks are the continuation of a long series of terrorist attacks against numerous Syrian cities, carried out on the orders of the Riyadh, Ankara, and Doha regimes with the goal of undermining any efforts at consolidating truce arrangements and sparing the blood of innocent Syrians. They are an unconcealed attempt to scuttle the Geneva negotiations, and they reflect the fact that the armed

terrorist groups have links to the very States and regimes that are trying to market terrorist organizations as "the moderate armed opposition".

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that these terrorist attacks will not prevent it from continuing to fight terrorism and work for a political solution to the Syrian crisis based on dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership, with a view to eradicating terrorism and restoring security and stability to the Syrian people. These cowardly crimes confirm yet again that not only are the Riyadh, Ankara and Doha regimes that are running these terrorist groups failing to comply with Security Council resolutions, but they are willing to actively contravene internationally recognized resolutions in cases where terrorism suits their interests and serves their contemptible purposes. The international community cannot depend at all on those regimes in any international effort to fight terrorism and resolve the crisis in Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn these terrorist crimes, and calls on the Security Council to carry out its responsibility to maintain international peace and security by taking preventive and punitive measures against regimes and States that support and finance terrorism, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative